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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,434	07/29/2003	June Lee	4591-338	7848
20575	7590	01/10/2006	EXAMINER	
MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			LE, THONG QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EJC

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/630,434	LEE, JUNE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thong Q. Le	2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9 and 11-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 15-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/09/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed on 10/26/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 2-9, 11-22 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-9, 11-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 2-5, 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwon (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,710).

Regarding claims 2, 15, Kwon discloses a semiconductor memory device (Figure 1) comprising:

a voltage level detector (120) configured to sense a voltage and configured to generate a power-up signal (Column 1, lines 46-47, Column 6, lines 52-53) while the voltage is less than a minimum voltage required to operate the device (Column 6, lines 44-58);

a ready/busy driver controller (Figure 1, 190) configured to generate a busy enable signal in response to the power-up signal (Column 10, lines 33-40);

a ready/busy driver (Figure 1, 200) that is response to the busy enable signal;
and

a command register (Column 10, lines 54-56) coupled to an input of the read/busy driver controller (Column 11, lines 1-6).

Regarding claims 3-5, 16-18, Kwon discloses wherein the command register comprises a program command register configured to provide a program busy signal to the ready/busy driver controller; and an erase command register configured to provide an erase busy signal to the ready/busy driver controller (Column 10, lines 54-63), and wherein the program busy signal indicates that the memory device is in a program mode (Column 9, lines 10-15), and wherein the erase busy signal indicates that the memory device is in an erase mode (Column 9, lines 10-15).

Regarding claims 19-22, the apparatus discussed above would performed the method in claims 19-22.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6-9 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Kwon (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,710), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a ready/busy driver controller comprises a level shifter as claim 6 disclosed, and a ready/busy driver includes an open drain driver configured to set a voltage at the ready/busy pin in response to the busy enable signal as claims 7-9 disclosed.

Claim 11-14 is allowed.

Claims 11-14 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Kwon (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,710), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a ready/busy driver controller comprises a level shifter as claim 11 disclosed, and a ready/busy driver includes an open drain driver configured to set a voltage at the ready/busy pin in response to the busy enable signal as claims 12-14 disclosed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarabian Amir can be reached on 571-272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827